REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above application be re-examined.

The February 27, 2007, Office Action (hereinafter "Office Action") rejected pending Claims 20-39. More specifically, the Office Action rejected Claims 34-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claims 20, 22, 23, 25-28, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0069874, to Hertzog et al. (hereinafter "Hertzog") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/02127553, to Lai (hereinafter "Lai"). The Office Action rejected Claims 21, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertzog in view of Lai as applied to Claim 20 or 26, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0194295, to Mercure et al. (hereinafter "Mercure"). Claims 24 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertzog in view of Lai as applied to Claims 20 and 26, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,620, issued to Trent et al. (hereinafter "Trent"). Claims 34 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trent in view of Hertzog. Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trent in view of Hertzog as applied to Claim 34, and further in view of Mercure.

While applicants respectfully disagree with the aforementioned claim rejections, in order to further the prosecution of this application, applicants have amended Claims 20 and 21, canceled Claims 22-39, and added new Claims 40-77. Support for these claims is found in the Appendix originally filed with this application.

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Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claims 34-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree, but in order to further the prosecution of this application, applicants have canceled these claims and, as a result, submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of Claim 34-39 has been rendered moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As noted above, the Office Action Claims 20, 22, 23, 25-28, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0069874, to Hertzog et al. in view of Lai. While applicants respectfully disagree, in order to further the prosecution of this application, Claim 20 has been amended and Claims 22, 23, 25-28, 31, and 32 have been canceled.

As amended, Claim 20 reads as follows:

> 20. An integrated address book clearinghouse interface stored on computer-readable storage medium, the integrated address book clearinghouse interface comprising:
> (A) a plurality of distinct and separate function modules, usable by a plurality of application programs for managing a plurality of address books that form an integrated address book clearinghouse, by performing functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse;
> (B) an encapsulation module for encapsulating in data envelopes requests for the performance of functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse and authorization to perform the requested functions, the requests including:
> (1) a request to perform an add, delete, update, or find address book function, the data envelope encapsulating the request comprising:
> (a) a header section, comprising:
> (i) an address book application header field; and

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(ii)   an address book authorization header field; and

(b)   a body section, comprising:

(i)   an address book add field if the request includes an add address book function,

(ii)   an address book delete field if the request includes a delete address book function,

(iii)   an address book update field if the request includes an update address book function, and

(iv)   an address book find field if the request includes a find address book function;

(2)   a request to perform an add, delete, update, or find address book contact function, the data envelope encapsulating the request comprising:

(a)   a header section, comprising:

(i)   an address book application header field; and

(ii)   an address book authorization header field; and

(b)   a body section, comprising:

(i)   an address book contact add field if the request includes an add contact function,

(ii)   an address book contact delete field if the request includes a delete contact function,

(iii)   an address book contact update field if the request includes an update contact function,

(iv)   an address book contact find field if the request includes a find contact function,

(3)   a request to perform an (i) add, delete, update, and find a group or a set of groups function, (ii) add or merge contacts into groups function, or (iii) delete a contact from one or more groups function, the data envelope encapsulating the request comprising:

(a)   a header section, comprising:

(i)   an address book application header field; and

(ii)   an address book authorization header field; and

(b)   a body section, comprising:

(i)   an address book add group field if the request includes an add a group or a set of groups function,

(ii)   an address book delete group field if the request includes a delete a group or a set of groups function,

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(iii) an address book update group field if the request includes an update a group or a set of groups function,

(iv) an address book find group field if the request includes a find a group or a set of groups function,

(v) an address book contact add group field if the request includes an add or merge contacts into groups functions, and

(vi) an address book contact delete group field if the request includes a delete a contact from one or more groups function;

(4) a request to perform a (i) find all contacts, groups, and address book information function, (ii) find a contact and groups containing the contact function, (iii) find one or more contacts in a group function, (iv) find a contact who is a Messenger® user function, or (v) find a contact who is an owner of an address book function, the data envelope encapsulating the request comprising:

(a) a header section, comprising:

(i) an address book application header field; and

(ii) an address book authorization header field; and

(b) a body section, comprising:

(i) an address book find all contacts, groups, and address book information field if the request includes a find all contacts, groups, and address book information function,

(ii) an address book find a contact by group containing the contact field if the request includes a find a contact and groups containing the contact function,

(iii) an address book find one or more contacts in a group field if the request includes a find one or more contacts in a group function,

(iv) an address book find a contact who is a Messenger® user field if the request includes a find the contact who is a Messenger® user function, and

(v) an address book find a contact who is an owner of the address book field if the request includes a find the contact who is an owner of an address book function; and

(5) a request to perform a get a parental control allow list in an address book function or a set the parental control allow list in the address book function, the data envelope encapsulating the request comprising:

(a) a header section, comprising:

(i)   an address book application header field; and

(ii)   an address book authorization header field; and

(b)   a body section, comprising:

(i)   an address book get a parental control allow list in an address book field if the request includes a get a parental control allow list in an address book function; and

(ii)   an address book set the parental control allow list in the address book field if the request includes a set a parental control allow list in the address book function;

(C)   an analyzing module for analyzing the data envelopes to detect the encapsulated requests and verify the authenticity of the encapsulated requests;

(D)   an address book function call module for generating function calls to request the performance of the requested functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse if the requests are authentic;

(E)   a function call processing module for parsing the function calls requesting the performance of the functions on the integrated address book clearinghouse and relaying the parsed function calls to the integrated address book clearinghouse;

(F)   a function call response module for generating responses to processed function calls; and

(G)   a response encapsulation module for encapsulating in data envelopes responses to processed function calls and information identifying an address book of the plurality of address books on which a function call was carried out, the responses including:

(1)   a response to an add, delete, update, or find an address book function, the data envelope encapsulating the response including a body section comprising:

(a)   an address book add response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes an add address book function;

(b)   an address book delete response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a delete address book function;

(c)   an address book update response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes an update address book function, and

(d)   an address book find response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find address book function;

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(2)   a response to an add, delete, update, or find one or more contacts in an address book function, the data envelope encapsulating the response including a body section comprising:

(a)   an address book contact add response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes an add contact function,

(b)   an address book contact delete response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a delete contact information function,

(c)   an address book contact update response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes an update contact function, and

(d)   an address book contact find response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find contact function;

(3)   a response to (i) an add, delete, update, and find a group or a set of groups function, (ii) an add or merge contacts into groups function, or (iii) a delete a contact from one or more groups function, the data envelope encapsulating the response including a body section comprising:

(a)   an address book group add response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes an add a group or set of groups function,

(b)   an address book group delete response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a delete a group or set of groups function,

(c)   an address book group update response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes an update a group or set of groups function,

(d)   an address book group find response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find a group or set of groups function,

(e)   an address book contact add group response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes an add or merge contacts into groups function, and

(f)   an address book contact delete group response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a delete a contact from one or more groups function;

(4)   a response to: (i) a find all contacts, groups, and address book information function, (ii) a find a contact and groups containing the contact function, (iii) a find one or more contacts in a group function, (iv) a find a contact who is a Messenger® user function, or (v) a

find a contact who is the owner of an address book function, the data envelope encapsulating the response including a body section comprising:

        (a)   an address book find all contacts, groups, and address book information response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find all contacts, groups, and address book information function,

        (b)   an address book find a contact by group containing the contact response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find the contact as well as groups containing the contact function,

        (c)   an address book find one or more contacts in a group response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find one or more contacts in a group function,

        (d)   an address book find a contact who is a Messenger® user response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find a contact who is a Messenger® user function, and

        (e)   an address book find a contact who is the owner of an address book response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a find a contact who is the owner of an address book function; and

        (5)   a response to get a parental control allow list in an address book function or set a parental control allow list in the address book function, the data envelope encapsulating the response including a body section comprising

        (a)   an address book get a parental control allow list in an address book response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a get a parental control allow list in an address book function, and

        (b)   an address book set a parental control allow list in an address book response field if the request causing the generation of the function call includes a set a parental control allow list in an address book function.

Applicants submit that Hertzog and Lai, taken alone or in combination, do not teach, describe, or suggest any limitations of independent Claim 20. Accordingly, applicants submit that Claim 20, as amended, is not rejectable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertzog in view of Lai and request that this rejection be withdrawn and Claim 20 be allowed.

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As also noted above, the Office Action rejected Claims 21, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertzog in view of Lai as applied to Claim 20 or 26, and further in view of Mercure. While applicants respectfully disagree, in order to further the prosecution of this application, applicants have canceled Claims 29 and 30 and made clarifying amendments to Claim 21. Since Claim 21 depends directly from Claim 20, Claim 20 contains all of the limitations of the base claim. Since Mercure does not make up for the deficiencies of Hertzog and Lai with respect to the base claim, i.e., Claim 20, applicants submit that Claim 21 is not rejectable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertzog in view of Lai, and further in view of Mercure, and request that this rejection be withdrawn and Claim 21 be allowed.

As also noted above, Claims 24 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertzog in view of Lai as applied to Claims 20 and 26, and further in view of Trent. While applicants respectfully disagree, in order to further the prosecution of this application, Claims 24 and 33 have been canceled, and, as a result, this rejection has been rendered moot.

As also noted above, Claims 34 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trent in view of Hertzog. While applicants respectfully disagree, in order to further the prosecution of this application, Claims 34 and 36-39 have been canceled, and, as a result, this rejection has been rendered moot.

As also noted above, Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trent in view of Hertzog as applied to Claim 34, and further in view of Mercure. While applicants respectfully disagree, in order to further the prosecution of this application, Claim 35 has been canceled, and, as a result, this rejection has been rendered moot.
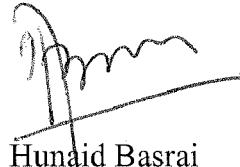
<u>New Claims 40-75</u>

New Claims 40-77 have been added. Applicants submit that new Claims 40-77 are patentable over the cited prior art references, both for their dependence on independent Claim 20, and for additional subject matter recited therein. None of the cited prior art references, namely, Herzog, Lai, Mercure, or Trent (alone or combined), teaches, describes, or suggests any limitations of Claims 40-77. Accordingly, applicants submit that Claims 40-77 are in allowable condition.

<div align="center">CONCLUSION</div>

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, and allowance of the claims pending, i.e., Claims 20-21, and 40-77, at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned agent at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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